

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 AID-05 SS-15 L-02 HEW-02 DODE-00 /074 W

----- 121587

R 210450Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3960

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USNYSSION GENEVA 578

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3566

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, LA

SUBJECT: UNFDAC REPS GET GO-AHEAD FROM LPF

1. UNFDAC DEPUTY DIRECTOR MR. WACLAW MICUTA AND DR. ALEXANDRE ARNAUD, UNFDAC REP IN LAOS, CALLED ON EMBOFF MAY 18 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF THEIR RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA, OFFICIALS OF MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF). MICUTA CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT UNFDAC IS WELCOME IN LAOS.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH MR. THONGPEAN, THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF LPF REPRESENTATION IN VIENTIANE, MICUTA SAID HE POINTED OUT THAT DRUG ABUSE IS WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM AND UNFDAC IS ALREADY AT WORK IN LAOS; FOR EXAPLE, SEEDS FOR UN CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT IN MUNONG KASSY AREA HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED THONGPEAN, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY SKEPTICAL AT FURST, EXPRESSED INTEREST IN UNFDAC PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IF IT WILL STRESS
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SIMPLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. DURING CALL ON JUSTICE MINISTER KHAMKING SOUVANLASI IT WAS AGREED TO SEND TWO LAO ABROAD ON UN FELLOWSHIPS TO STUDY NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. MICUTA AND ARNAUD BOTH AGREE THAT VISIT OF UNFDAC LEGAL EXPERTO TO VIENTIANE SHOULD COME LATER. MICUTA GAINED IMPRESSION FROM KHAMKING THAT 1971 NARCOTICS LAW REMAINS "IN FORCE" BUT IS NOT NOW BEING ENFORCED. THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS AT THE MINISTRY THAT THE LAO INTEND EITHER TO REPEAL OR TO AMEND NARCOTICS LAW IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. MICUTA MET WITH CHEF DE CABINET(LPF) AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, SOUBAN SRITHIRATH, AND FOUND HIM BELLIGERANT AT OUTSET. SOUBAN RECALLED THAT MICUTA, WHEN LAST IN LAOS, HAD CALLED ON FON MIN ACCOMPANIED BY FORMER GROUPE SPECIAL D'INVESTIGATION CHIEF GENERAL KHAMHOU BOUSSARATH, WHO RECENTLY WAS FORCED TO FLEE TO THAILAND. SOUBAN CHARGED THAT UN IS "ONLY INTERESTED IN REPRESSION"; MICUTA CLAIMS HE EVENTUALLY DISABUSED SOUBAN OF HIS MISIMPRESSIONS BY DETAILING THE FULL RANGE OF UN NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES (E.G., INCOME SUBSTITUTION, REHABILITATION, LEGISLATION, ETC.) AND CON-
VERSATION ENDED ON FRIENDLY NOTE.

5. MICUTA COMMENTED THAT, IN CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER, SOUVANNA SAID UNFDAC SHOULD CONTINUE ITS PROGRAM. AT SAME TIME HE ADVISED AGAINST VISITING MUONG KASSY IN VIEW OF THE CONFUSED POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION THERE.

6. FONMIN (LPF) PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ALSO ASKED THAT MICUTA AND ARNAUD "NOT INIST" ON GOING TO MUONG KASSY; IN A WEEK OR TEN DAYS IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, HE SAID. PHOUMI REPORTEDLY SAID UNFDAC PROGRAM SHOULD CONTINUE IN LAOS AND THAT PGNU WOULD SUPPORT LOW-KEY ACTIVITY.

7. MICUTA STRESSED THAT IN ALL HIS CONVERSATIONS HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT UN WOULD ACCEPT AID FOR ITS PROJECTS FROM ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE U.S. HE MADE PITCH TO EMBOFF THAT USG, AS IT REDUCES THE SIZE OF IT MISSION IN LAOS, SHOULD GIVE (OR AT LEAST SELL) SOME OF ITS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO UNFDAC.

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8. EMBOFF EXPRESSED CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN UNFDAC PROGRAM, NOTING THAT MICUTA'S VISIT WAS WELL-TIMED SINCE, DUE TO THE DETERIORATING POLITICAL SITUATION IN LAOS, OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT WAS DWINDLING IN SIZE. MANY OF LAO INVOLVED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HAVE LEFT, AND LPF SHOW LITTLE INTEREST IN RECEIVING OUR ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD. WE TA#\$I\$4 E(I\$J@\$AKQ

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\$@T;EU@H4W(Z<"*2)QUU97#M !DKN'BA),F(;V)*0J8:"_U>W!X?7HTK*W*0VFPKLNEX9Q1KU2D(71_FY+I;&

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, NARCOTICS, AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, CRIMINAL LAW, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750181-0010
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750529/aaaabafp.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNFDAC REPS GET GO-AHEAD FROM LPF
TAGS: SNAR, LA, UNFDAC, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA), (ARNAUD, ALEXANDRE), (MICUTA, WACLAW)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006